

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-9, 14 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Starks in view of Hsieh. The Examiner admits that Starks fails to disclose a second quick release connection between a support and a bicycle accessory. The Examiner states that Hsieh teaches two quick release connections, and it would be obvious to modify the bicycle accessory device of Starks with the release connections of Hsieh to release or secure the support to the mount easily. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The claimed invention is not obvious. There is no motivation to modify the bicycle accessory device of Starks in the manner the Examiner contends. In Starks, a handle 37 is removably attached to a mount 34 of a bracket 32 with a quick connect attachment to assist a young rider in learning to ride a bicycle 22. Hsieh relates to a retractable rod assembly that prevents wobbling between inner and outer tubes when the telescoping assembly is relatively long. There is no motivation to employ the telescoping assembly of Hsieh with the bicycle accessory device of Starks as the problems solved by Hsieh provide no benefit to the bicycle accessory device of Starks. That is, problems associated with wobbling of telescoping rods provide no benefit in Starks. Additionally, one skilled in the art would not consider a telescoping rod when modifying a bicycle accessory device. The claimed invention is not obvious.

Claims 1, 3-9, 14 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu in view of Hsieh. The Examiner states that Wu shows first and second connections which appear to show a quick release assembly, and it would be obvious to modify the device of Wu to including a first and a second quick release connection with resilient members to allow for easier assembly. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The claimed invention is not obvious. First, Wu does not show two quick release connections. The connection between the grip 41 and the rear steering bar 4 shows three dots.

However, the dots are not disclosed as being a quick release attachment, and could be any other form of attachment, such as welding. The other connection between the rear steering bar 4 and the driving member 3 is also not disclosed as being a quick connection attachment.

Additionally, there is no motivation to modify the tricycle steering device of Wu in the manner the Examiner contends to include two quick release attachments with resilient members. In Wu, a rear steering bar 4 is securely attached to a driving member 3 to turn a tricycle 1 (column 2, lines 24 to 30). The connection between the driving member 3 and the rear steering bar 4 must be strong to withstand the turning forces the user applies on the rear steering bar 4 to turn the driving member 3 and the tricycle 1. A quick release connection employed between the driving member 3 and the rear steering bar 4 would not be strong enough to handle the turning forces. A more secure connection is required to ensure that the driving member 3 and the rear steering bar 4 remain secured. Employing a quick release attachment at this location would affect how the steering bar 4 functions.

Additionally, there is no motivation to modify the bicycle accessory device of Wu in the manner the Examiner contends. In Wu, a handle 37 is removably attached to a mount 34 of a bracket 32 with a quick connect attachment to assist a young rider in learning to ride a bicycle 22 to balance the bicycle 22. Hsieh relates to a retractable rod assembly that prevents wobbling between inner and outer tubes when the telescoping assembly is relatively long. There is no motivation to employ the telescoping assembly of Hsieh with the bicycle accessory device of Wu as the problems solved by Hsieh provide no benefit to the bicycle accessory device of Wu. That is, problems associated with wobbling of telescoping rods provide no benefit in Wu. The claimed invention is not obvious.

Claims 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Starks in view of Hsieh and further in view of Kuo. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Starks in view of Hsieh and further in view of Kirvutza. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Starks in view of Hsieh and further in view of Kahmann. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Starks in view of Hsieh and further in view of Long. Claims 10-13, 15 and 17 depend on patentable independent claim 1 and are allowable for the reasons set forth above. The claimed invention is not obvious because it is not obvious to employ two quick release connections in Starks or Wu. The claimed invention is not obvious, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

No additional fees are seen to be required. If any additional fees are due, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C., for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment. Therefore, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS, P.C.

/Karin H. Butchko/

Karin H. Butchko
Registration No. 45,864
400 West Maple Road, Suite 350
Birmingham, Michigan 48009
Telephone: (248) 988-8360
Facsimile: (248) 988-8363

Dated: November 12, 2007